

ABSTRACT

A method of treating a flexible multi-layer member exhibiting a glass transition temperature and including a surface layer, the method composed of: moving the member through a member path including: a contact zone defined by contact of the member with an arcuate surface including a curved contact zone region; a pre-contact member path before the contact zone; and a post-contact member path after the contact zone; heating sequentially each portion of the surface layer such that each of the heated surface layer portions has a temperature above the glass transition temperature while in the curved contact zone region; and cooling sequentially each of the heated surface layer portions while in the contact zone such that the temperature of each of the heated surface layer portions falls to below the glass transition temperature prior to each of the heated surface layer portions exiting the curved contact zone region, thereby defining a cooling region, wherein the heating is accomplished in a heating region encompassing any part or all of the contact zone outside the cooling region and a portion of the pre-contact member path adjacent the contact zone.